



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

RUNNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP
NINETEENTH FLOOR
1621 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OH 44115-2191

COPY MAILED

JAN 04 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Kevin E. Myszka, et al.	:	
Application No. 10/756,824	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: January 13, 2004	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. NEXPP0179USD	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed June 12, 2006, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. However, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature of Fred H. Zollinger III appearing on the petition shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he is authorized to represent the particular party on whose behalf he acts. However, if Mr. Zollinger desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to petitioner. Nevertheless, all future correspondence regarding this application file will be directed solely to the address of record.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant petition does not comply with item (1).

The reference to add the prior-filed applications in the first sentence of the specification on page one following the title is not acceptable as drafted since it improperly incorporates by reference the prior-filed applications. An incorporation by reference statement added after an application's filing date is not effective because no new matter can be added to an application after its filing date (*see* 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)). If an incorporation by reference statement is included in an amendment to the specification to add a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 after the filing date of the application, the amendment would not be proper. When a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is submitted after the filing of an application, the reference to the prior application cannot include an incorporation by reference statement of the prior application. *See Dart Industries v. Banner*, 636 F.2d 684, 207 USPQ 273 (C.A.D.C. 1980). *Note* MPEP §§ 201.06(c) and 608.04(b).

Before the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a renewed petition and either an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(a)(5)) or a proper amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121) to correct the above matters are required.

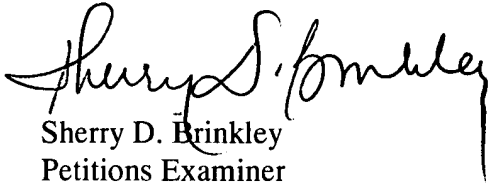
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
 Commissioner for Patents
 Post Office Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: Customer Service Window
 Mail Stop Petitions
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax: (571) 273-8300
ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Sherry D. Brinkley at (571) 272-3204.



Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions



Frances M. Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: FRED H. ZOLLINGER III
ZOLLINGER & BURLESON LTD
P. O. BOX 2368
NORTH CANTON, OH 44720